

FORM B - BUILDING

Date (month / year): June 2018

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Photograph



Locus Map



Recorded by: Lara Kritzer, JM Goldson
community preservation + planning

Organization: Hanson Historical Commission

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form
Number

39-0-31-0

Hanover

HNS.229

Town/City: Hanson

Place: (*neighborhood or village*):
Bryantville

Address: 22 Main Street

Historic Name: Thatcher Thomas Store

Uses: Present: Multi-Family Dwelling
Original: Single-Family Dwelling

Date of Construction: ca. 1837-38,
altered/reconstructed ca.
1880

Source: White's History, Plan 4 No. 102, Page
70

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Stone
Wall/Trim: Wood Clapboard, Wood
~~Shingle/Wood~~
Roof: Asphalt Shingle

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Attached Barn (ca. 1880s)

Major Alterations (with dates): Ca. 1880
alterations including new roof, dormers, front
porch, architectural trim, windows, enlarged
original footprint, new addition, and attached
garage. Ca. 1980s conversion into a multi-family
structure included a large addition added to
northeast corner of building, new doors, and vinyl
~~Concurrent windows~~

Condition: Good

Moved: no yes **Date:**
1842-1843
Acreage: 1.3 Acres

Setting: Located at the far eastern corner of Hanson across from Pembroke, the building is located in a small commercial center that straddles the border between the two communities with the road becoming increasingly residential in nature to the west.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

22

Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



HNS.229

Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

The two-and-a-half story Colonial revival style structure has a large, nearly square footprint below a tall and steeply pitched hip roof. A large, similarly detailed two-and-a-half story addition extends from its northeast corner and ultimately connects the original house to a newer carriage house style building to the east. The house is wood clapboard sided with the exception of the hip roofed dormers on each side of the roof which are finished in a combination of wood trim and wood shingle siding. The original two-over-two wood double hung windows are still in place on the second floor of the structure but have been replaced on the first floor by one-over-one vinyl replacement windows. The tall hip roof projects out over the facades on all sides, providing space for wide decorative brackets which extend along the cornice and soffits below the eaves of the roof. The dormers have a smaller version of this overhanging hip roof, including smaller scale brackets which run around all three sides of its upper edge. A single tall, elaborately corbeled brick chimney is located in the northwest corner of the main hip roof.

The house faces south towards the road and has a symmetrical front façade. A wide hip roofed dormer is centered on south roof slope with five short, rectangular windows set into wood paneling across its front façade. Below, two windows are located on each floor to either side of the center entrance and one window is centered above it. The second floor windows extend up into the cornice trim of the building, while the first floor windows have wider headers with projecting upper edges. All of the windows have narrow projecting sills. The entrance is located in a wide and deep entry porch supported by round columns and pilasters. The porch roof is flat with a low wood balustrade surrounding its edges that includes short capped posts and closely spaced square balusters. A similar but taller wood railing runs around the outer edges of the porch below. The eaves of the roof project out slightly above a flat cornice with narrow dentils which surrounds the upper edge of the porch. The door is located at the rear of the porch and is a fiberglass replacement door with two small windows in its upper edge. Narrow replacement sidelights are located to either side of the door, each having a three-pane window over a tall recessed panel. At the southern end of the porch, a short set of wood steps leads to a curving cement walkway that runs west to the parking area.

The side facades of the building echo the design features of the south façade including the window placement and frames. A slightly narrower, three window version of the south façade dormer is centered on the west roof slope over two windows on the second floor. On the first floor, a single window is located in the right corner while a door replaces the window on the left. The door appears to be a metal door and has a large single paned window in its upper half. The door opens onto a cement landing for access to the parking area. The east façade of the original house is more detailed. In addition to the narrower dormer and second floor window pattern seen on the west façade, it also has a long, flat roofed porch that stretches across the east façade and continues across the south and east façades of the northeast addition. The porch is similar to the front entry porch with a flat projecting roof, narrow cornice, square dentils, and round columns. It does not have the front porch's balustrade, though, and its railings are slightly taller with more widely spaced balusters. Tall bushes and evergreens surrounding the porches obscure any clear views of doors or windows opening into the porch space.

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

22

Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.229

The south façade of the northeast addition has a smaller, two window dormer over two double hung windows on the second floor above the porch. A second two window dormer is located on the east façade of the northeast addition over a single window on the second floor. The first floor's open porch ends at a one-story, flat roofed addition which connects the original house to the newer building to the east. The new building has been designed to match the details of the original house and is one-and-a-half stories in height with a large hip roof. This building has wide hip roofed wall dormers on its south and west facades. Both the dormers and the main roof have wide eaves, cornices, and brackets which are similar in design to the main house. On the south façade of the new building, three double hung windows are located within the wall dormer. On the first floor below, a glass door is located at the center of the façade between a large picture window and a double hung window. An unpainted wood deck runs across the façade with a tall, unpainted lattice railing around its southeast corner.

While the building had its start as an early nineteenth century store, there is no sign of that original structure today. It is possible that elements of the original structure may still be present within the building, but the current structure's footprint and massing, as well as its exterior architectural detailing, particularly on the entrance porch and roof overhangs, are classic features commonly found in Colonial Revival structures of the late nineteenth century. While there is no confirmed date for when these alterations were made to this structure, they are believed to have been around 1880 under the ownership of Ada and Walter E. Damon (see below).

Today the house is located on an open, flat lot with commercial structures to the east and south. Evergreen bushes and foundation plantings surround the south and east facades of the house behind an open, flat grass lawn. A wide paved parking area extends across the western half of the site and around the northwest corner of the building. Mature trees and dense vegetation surround the property to the west and north.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

According to White's History of Hanson, the home at 22 Main Street was built by Thatcher Thomas, the uncle of Mrs. Walter E. Damon's mother. The building was constructed in 1837-1838 at the corner of Main Street and Plymouth Street to the southwest of its current location. In 1842-43, the building was moved to its present location and converted into a residence. White's History also includes a story that Elijah Damon Sr. went to Martin Bryant's store for some "ile" but was told they had no "ile" but did have "oil." But he continued that he knew what he wanted and guessed that he could get "ile" at Thatcher Thomas' store and went out after it.

There is no sign on the 1830 Smith Plan of the Thomases or of a store on the south side of Main Street in the Bryantville section of Hanson at that time. There is a store, however, noted in the future location of the house after its move in the 1840s but no owner is noted. Thatcher Thomas(1807- 1894) was born in Hanson or Pembroke to Robert Thomas and Lydia Boney Thomas. Thatcher married Mary W. Ricketson in Dartmouth in 1835. Although Thatcher is listed as the owner of the store in its original location, he relocated to Dartmouth by 1855 and is not again listed in either Hanson or Pembroke. On the 1856 Walling Map, the building is referred to as the "H. Thomas Store." Heman Thomas (1808-1876) was born in Hanson to Levi and Lydia Thomas and presumably took over the store from Thatcher, although their relationship, if any, is not clear. Heman is listed as a trader on the 1855 state census along with his wife, Abigail.

When the property next appears on the 1879 Walker Atlas, the building had been converted into a large house with substantial additions added to its northeast and northwest corners and a separate barn. The property is shown as belonging to Miss A.M. Beal, otherwise known as Ada (also listed as Alice) Mabel Beal (1861-1942). Ada's father, George Barstow Beal, and mother, Mary A. Galvin Beal, are listed in the 1880 U.S. Census as a store clerk and milliner, respectively, and may have run the store while it was still located in the building. Ada married Walter E. Damon Sr.(1860-1915), son of Elijah Damon and Phebe Stevens Besse Damon, in 1884. How Ada came to own the building is unclear. As noted above, White's History listed Thatcher Thomas as being a

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

22

Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

HNS.229

great uncle of Ada Beal but there is no clear connection at present between Ada's mother, Mary Galvin, and the Thomases of Hanson. In any case, it appears that either around the time that Ada came to own the building in 1879, or following her marriage in 1884, the building underwent substantial alterations to convert the early nineteenth century store into a home, and this is most likely when the Colonial Revival detailed visible today were added to the structure.

Walter E. Damon is shown as the owner of the property in the 1903 Richards Map and by the 1910 U.S. Census was working as a lawyer for the railroads. In 1921, Ada sold the property to Catherine H. Tibbets (b. 1875) of Hanson.¹ Catherine, a widow who was originally from Maine, only owned the house for a few years before selling it in 1925 to Oscar Gassett Jr. and Grace E. Gassett. Oscar Gassett worked as a lineman for the telephone company, and when the couple moved to Brockton in 1935, they sold the house back to Catherine H. Tibbets.² According to the 1930 U.S. Census, Catherine had been working as a housekeeper for George L. Hayward of Pembroke, a real estate operator. By 1940, Catherine had become the proprietor of the Light Liquor Inn in Hanson, and George Hayward was listed as a boarder as well as the Inn's bartender.

In 1942, Catherine sold the property to George A. Crowley, who sold it the following years to Norman D. (1909-1983) and Helen M. Breil.³ Norman and Helen had married in 1935 and were living in Whitman before the move where Norman worked as a medical doctor. The Breils lived in the house until 1964, when it was sold to Benjamin T. and Lillian Koplovsky of Boston.⁴ Benjamin (1911-1999) was a pharmacist. In 1979, the house was sold to Dr. Robert A. Najarian.⁵ In 1986, it was sold again to

Eric II and Robert Anderson, who appear to be responsible for the house's conversion into multiple units. The current owner, Berry Thomas of Pembroke, purchased the property from the Anderson Realty Trust in 2015.

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Brown, Donna McCulloch. *Images of America: Hanson*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2003.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Census, 1855 and 1865. Located in Local History Room, Hanson Public Library and www.ancestry.com

Gurney, E.B.K., "History of Hanson," in D.H. Hurd, *History of Plymouth County, Massachusetts* (Philadelphia, 1884), p. 340-355. Available at www.archive.org/details/historyofplymout02hurd/page/340

Hanson Historical Commission. *History of Town of Hanson*. March 2, 1959. (Typescript) Project of Historical Commission and Board of Selectmen approved by vote of Town Meeting.
[https://archive.org/details/historyoftownofh00sn](http://archive.org/details/historyoftownofh00sn)

Massachusetts Birth, Marriage and Death Records. www.ancestry.com

Obituaries, Burial information, and Family Trees, www.findagrave.com

Richards, L.J. *New Topographic Atlas of Plymouth County and Cohasset Town*, 1903. Town of Hanson, Plate 16. www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/9831/Hanson+Town++Pembroke+Town/Plymouth+County+and+Cohasset+Town+1903/Massachusetts/

¹ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1397, Page 417

² Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1699, Page 171

³ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 1821, Page 350; Book 1840, page 594

⁴ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 3164 page 366

⁵ Plymouth County Registry of Deeds, Book 4681, Page 198

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

HANSON

22

Main Street

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Area(s) Form No.

220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125



HNS.229

Smith, J. Plan of Hanson. 1830. <https://usgenwebhansonma.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/1830hansonmap.jpg>

Town of Hanson Assessor's database and property record cards, www.assessedvalues2.com/index.aspx?jurcode=123

Town of Hanson Assessor's Records on Persons and Property, 1941-1970. Located in Local History Room, Hanson Public Library.

U.S. Census information, www.ancestry.com

Walker, George H. *Atlas of Plymouth County, Mass.* 1879. Map of the Town of Hanson at www.historicmapworks.com/Map/US/8999/Hanson+Town/Plymouth+County+1879/Massachusetts/,

Walling, Henry Francis. *Map of town of Hanson, Plymouth County, Mass.* 1856. (New York, 1857). www.digitalcommonwealth.org/search/commonwealth:1257bd15g

White, Joseph B. *White's History of Hanson, MA.* 1932. Annotated manuscript compiled between 1908-1932 and revised by Allan Clemons, 2014. Binder copy located in the Local History Room, Hanson Public Library.